

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 027759
ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY NEA:EGABINGTON:HLK:BDF
APPROVED BY P:PCHABIB
NEA:ALATHERTON
S/S-S - MR. REDDY
S - MR. SPIEGEL
S/S - AOTTO

-----080253Z 089359 /64

O 080233Z FEB 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 027759

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (VANCE, CYRUS)

SUBJECT: SECVISIT TO BEIRUT

REF: (A) BEIRUT 480, (B) BEIRUT 509

1. IN GENERAL WE ARE IN AGREEMENT WITH SCENARIO DEVELOPED
BY EMBASSY AND GOL. FOLLOWING ARE QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS
ON ARRANGEMENTS PROPOSED BY EMBASSY.

2. ARRIVAL BEIRUT: ARRIVAL ARRANGEMENTS ARE SATISFACTORY,
ALTHOUGH WE WISH TO RETAIN SOME FLEXIBILITY IN TERMS OF ONE
OR MORE OF SUPPORT STAFF REMAINING BEHIND WITH AIRCRAFT
SHOULD THIS BE NECESSARY.

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3. PRESS STATEMENT ON ARRIVAL: IN PRINCIPLE, WE ARE
AGREEABLE TO DISTRIBUTING PRESS STATEMENT ON ARRIVAL RATHER
THAN SECRETARY MEETING WITH PRESS. YOU SHOULD KNOW, HOW-
EVER, THAT WE ARE CONSIDERING ANNOUNCEMENT OF AID PACKAGE
FOR LEBANON DURING SECRETARY'S VISIT AND WILL WANT TO CON-
SIDER CAREFULLY HOW THIS MIGHT BE BEST DONE. ONE POSSIBI-

LITY WOULD BE FOR THIS TO BE INCLUDED IN PRESS HANDOUT AT TIME OF DEPARTURE OR IN THE FORM OF A JOINT ANNOUNCEMENT AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE MEETING WITH SARKIS. WE WILL BE CONSULTING FURTHER WITH YOU ON THIS SUBJECT IN NEXT FEW DAYS; IN MEANTIME, YOU SHOULD MAKE NO MENTION OF THIS TO GOL UNTIL YOU RECEIVE INSTRUCTIONS.

4. MOTORCADE ASSIGNMENTS. TARNOFF SHOULD ACCOMPANY SECRETARY'S PARTY TO BAABDA. OTHERWISE, MOTORCADE ARRANGEMENTS ARE SATISFACTORY. SHOULD IT BE NECESSARY FOR SOMEONE TO GO FROM YARZE TO BAABDA AT SHORT NOTICE, WOULD THIS PRESENT ANY PROBLEMS?

5. MEETING/LUNCHEON AT BAABDA PALACE:

A. WE ASSUME THAT TOUMAYAN WILL BE IN PLACE AT BAABDA BEFORE SECRETARY'S PARTY ARRIVES AND THAT INTERPRETER SERVICE NOT NEEDED AT AIRPORT ARRIVAL AND ON RIDE TO BAABDA. PLEASE CONFIRM.

B. PLENARY SESSION: EMBASSY SHOULD PROVIDE NOTETAKER. PLEASE PROVIDE NAME.

C. MEETING WITH SARKIS: HABIB AND ATHERTON SHOULD ALSO ACCOMPANY SECRETARY IN ADDITION TO AMBASSADOR AND TOUMAYAN. WILL LANE ATTEND AS NOTETAKER? PLEASE CONFIRM.

D. WE NOTE THAT PLENARY SESSION WILL CONTINUE AFTER SECRETARY AND OTHERS WITHDRAW FOR MEETING WITH SARKIS. IS CONFIDENTIAL

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LANGUAGE CAPABILITY OF LEBANESE SIDE SUFFICIENT TO ALLOW MEETING TO BE CONDUCTED IN ENGLISH OR SHOULD EMBASSY OFFICER ASSUME ROLE OF TRANSLATOR (ALTERNATIVELY GOL MIGHT WISH TO PROVIDE TRANSLATOR)? RE PARA 3F, REFTTEL A, IT MIGHT BE USEFUL FOR SPECIAL SHORT MEETINGS WITH GOL OFFICIALS FOR THOSE MEMBERS OF SECRETARY'S PARTY NOT ATTENDING MEETING WITH SARKIS (SAUNDERS, CARTER, QUANDT AND LAKE). PLEASE LET US HAVE YOUR VIEWS ASAP ON THOSE WITH WHOM WE MIGHT USEFULLY MEET.

E. LUNCHEON: SECRETARY WILL BE PREPARED TO RESPOND TO TOAST. WE WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR PROVIDING THEMES HE MIGHT USE. PLEASE INCLUDE TARNOFF IN LUNCHEON.

6. FILING FACILITIES FOR PRESS: TRAVELING PRESS MIGHT NEED TO FILE STORIES BECAUSE OF STATESIDE DEADLINES. WE NOTE THAT YOU ARE ALERTING REPRESENTATIVES OF BEIRUT OFFICES OF PRESS WITH SECRETARY TO MEET WITH THEIR COLLEAGUES AT YARZE. MIGHT THEY BE WILLING TO FILE FOR

TRAVELING PRESS IF NECESSARY? ALTERNATIVELY WE MIGHT
REQUEST EMBASSY TO SEND LIMITED NUMBER OF DISPATCHES BY
ITS FACILITIES.

7. WE BELIEVE IT WOULD BE USEFUL FOR PARKER OR LANE TO
MEET SECRETARY'S PARTY IN CAIRO AND ACCOMPANY ON AIRCRAFT
TO BEIRUT IN ORDER TO BRIEF SECRETARY PRIOR TO ARRIVAL.
AMBASSADOR PARKER IS AWARE OF OUR THINKING ON THIS MATTER
AND WISHES TO MAKE FINAL DECISION ON WHOM SHOULD GO TO
CAIRO AT LATER DATE. WE WILL BE SENDING FISCAL DATA
SHORTLY AS WELL AS INSTRUCTIONS TO CAIRO TO MEET AND
ARRANGE ACCOMMODATIONS.
VANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 08-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE027759
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: EGABINGTON:HLK:BDF
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770043-1274
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770262/aaaaccru.tel
Line Count: 129
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 52b8acc9-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 77 BEIRUT 480, 77 BEIRUT 509
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3378873
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SECVISIT TO BEIRUT
TAGS: OVIP, (VANCE, CYRUS)
To: BEIRUT
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/52b8acc9-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009